

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091970

42

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:GCB

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/EGY:GBEYER

USDOC/CAGNE:GBECK

----- 106374

R 161045Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091970

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: FORD TRACTOR

1. FORD TRACTOR PLANS SEND PETER D. GOUGH OF ITS GENERAL MARKETING OFFICE TO SYRIA APRIL 26 TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING TRACTOR ASSEMBLY PLANT THERE AS JOINT VENTURE WITH UNICHEM. FORD IS INTERESTED BECAUSE OF EXPECTATION THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANT WOULD ENABLE FORD TO GET OFF ARAB BOYCOTT LIST. AS EMBASSY REPORTED LAST YEAR, SYRIAN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY DECREE NUMBER 428 OF JULY 19, 1975, PROVIDES THAT BOYCOTT MAY BE LIFTED FROM FIRM WHICH ERECTS MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES.
 2. GOUGH WAS IN DAMASCUS IN JUNE 1975 AT WHICH TIME MOHAMMED AL-DEEK OF UNICHEM SUGGESTED JOINT VENTURE, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SAUDI OR KUWAITI CAPITAL. FORD DID NOT FOLLOW UP IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THEIR AREA PERSONNEL WERE BUSY WITH ASSEMBLY PLANT PROJECT IN EGYPT, WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE ON THE TRACKS. UPCOMING GOUGH VISIT WILL BE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO DEEK'S FEELER OF LAST YEAR.
 3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVISING DEPT WHETHER DEEK IS EXPECTED TO BE IN DAMASCUS DURING WEEK OF APRIL 26. GOUGH
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PAGE 02 STATE 091970

HAS ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY REFRAIN FROM SAYING THAT

INQUIRY IS ON BEHALF OF FORD, SINCE HE DOES NOT WANT TO
ATTRACT ANY INTEREST PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS
BECAUSE OF BOYCOTT QUESTION. KISSINGER

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